BPL pension to persons less than 65 years

†755. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to provide BPL pension to the persons of less than 65 years of age also;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has completed the survey of the BPL old aged persons;

(d) if so, the total number of old age persons likely to be covered under National Old Age Pension Scheme;

(e) the contribution of the Centre and the State Governments separately in the amount to be received by the beneficiaries under this scheme; and

(f) the date from which the scheme will be implemented by Government?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) A proposal is under consideration to provide pension to persons who are 60 years or higher and belonging to a household below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India, by lowering the age limit from 65 years to 60 years under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS).

(c) and (d) State Governments have been advised to identify all the eligible beneficiaries under IGNOAPS. It is estimated that about 157.19 lakh BPL persons who are 65 years or higher will be covered under IGNOAPS.

(e) Rs. 200 per month per beneficiary will be provided to by way of Central Assistance under IGNOAPS. State Governments were urged to contribute equally so that a pensioner could get Rs. 400 per month. The decision about State contribution, however, rests with the State Government.

(f) The IGNOAPS had been launched on 19th November 2007.

Safe drinking water to villages

756. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in various States which do not have safe drinking water available as on date;

(b) the existing and proposed schemes of the Government for making available the safe drinking water to such villages; and

(c) the extent of utilization of the funds under the schemes by the various States during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Water is a state subject and state governments are responsible for drinking water to the rural areas. To supplement the efforts

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.